

# Spreading The Gospel of Small Farming

How The Territory's Marketing Division is Working in The Islands—Expert Seed Man Sees Wonderful Opportunity For Diversified Farming of Many Kinds in Hawaii—Will Be Profitable



H. L. MUSSER

Mr. H. L. Musser, President of the Aggeler & Musser Seed Company of Los Angeles, California, who is expert authority on matters pertaining to agriculture and gardening in particular, has been touring the islands for three weeks with Superintendent Starrett of the marketing division, reports the following observations with some suggestions that may have merit:

## By H. L. MUSSER

"Our tour of three weeks was completed without one unpleasant incident; the greater credit is due to your system of good roads which prevailed everywhere except in the Kula country where the people of the corn belt are entitled to something better. This district because of its temperate climate and good soil is one of your most valuable agricultural centers, because there can be grown potatoes, end corn possibly sufficient for the consumption of your entire population.

Your country hotels are a pleasant surprise for clean comfort and abundance of good American food. While your large interests, the sugar, the pineapple, and other industries, are run upon the most scientific and up-to-date methods,

Your small farmer is even further behind the times than was Southern California twenty years ago. Southern California has a greater diversity of climate and soil than is here. It was then I entered into the seed business in Los Angeles with practically no knowledge of the conditions to be met. I could not understand why one grower would have great success with my seed, while another equally good farmer would fail. Well, it is a long story, but I made a systematic study of conditions and discovered that different seasons and different soils required different varieties of seeds. For instance, a certain variety of bean would succeed if planted in January, another must be planted in April, another in August and all would fail if planted at any other time.

fixed Farming of Many Kinds in Hawaii—Will Be Profitable

The same condition applied to potatoes, corn and almost every other vegetable. As I gathered this information I concluded it with the instructions in our seed catalogue. The growers very soon appreciated it and cooperated with me. It was money in their pocket and increased business for our store.

No one will dispute the assertion that the great market for Southern California products is due first to the systematic method of growing everything at its proper season and secondly to the systematic methods of marketing everything. Mr. Starrett of your marketing division is familiar with both the growing and marketing as it is done in California.

It is his ambition to induce the people of the islands to take advantage of your wonderful resources of soil and climate, and of your exceptional facilities for marketing your products.

To accomplish this will require time, but with the cooperation of your press, your school teachers and the farmers themselves, you will soon have developed a market that will astonish you all. With your larger interests so enormous in production, your small farmer is not appreciated because the individual showing is so insignificant that it only provokes contempt. But a few figures can show what the small farmer amounts to collectively. Next February and March your marketing division will send to the coast in excess of \$100,000 worth of onions. It will require \$200,000 worth of crates to hold them. These crates are made on the islands.

In 1914 your farmers can easily double these figures. Your importations of potatoes amount to approximately another \$100,000 all of which can be grown on your islands.

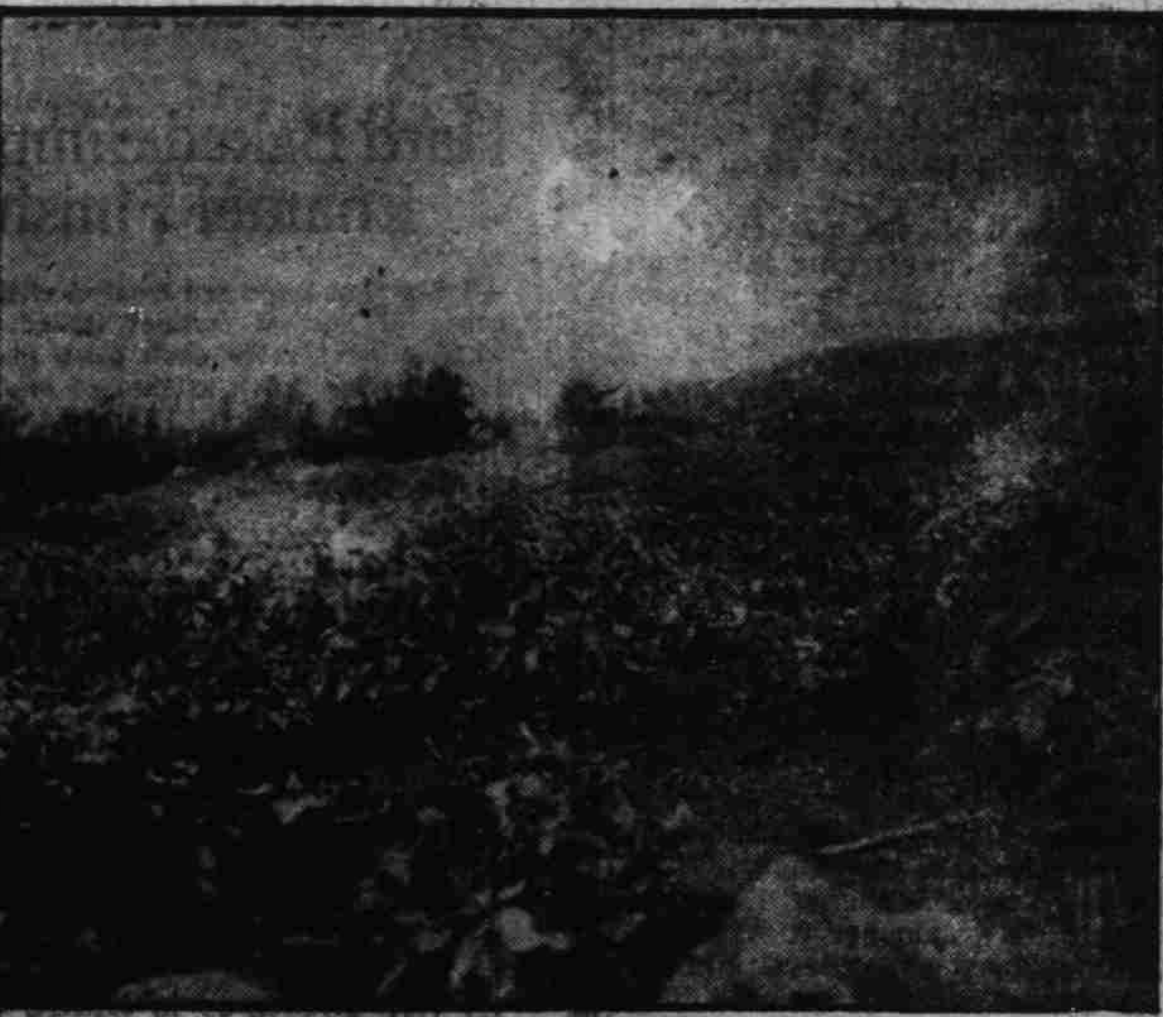
Blight Due to Climate.

I know some may well dispute this

## Around The Islands With Garden Experts



VINEYARD NEAR HILO.



POTATOES IN FOREGROUND, PEACH ORCHARD, KULA COUNTRY.

assertion, but much of your so-called potato blight is no disease at all. It is a chance condition of your climate. Of course a prolonged period of ex-

cessive rain will cause a fungus, but that condition is only a small percent of your trouble.

As we travelled from one district to another and heard reports on blight, I recollected similar conditions would sometimes occur in the Eastern States. When we would have several days of warm, humid weather the vine would take on a tender, hot-house growth. An hour of sunshine would blight the whole field with a consequent short crop. A sprinkle of rain followed by hot sunshine before the vines are dry would be sufficient to scald and blight them.

In the Kula district where they had no rain since April, they have no blight, and the fields of potatoes appear as luxuriant as anywhere.

To get around this condition you want to first discover those districts that are least subject to this humid condition. For instance the region from Hilo to the Volcano House is liable to blight every month in the year, while in the Kula district there are certain months it will not appear.

Let the farmer in this district (and no doubt there are other places just as free from blight: the Haiku country is nearly so) plant potatoes about December 1st, or if liable to a January frost, plant January 1st, and select such varieties that will mature in eight or ten weeks. But this is not all; your potatoes must be planted properly, cultivated properly, and properly sorted and culled for market. For instance, we found one field of potatoes that had escaped blight and matured. The farmer, a Japanese, was digging them (I should say scratching them out with his fingers). The soil was ideal, but 50 per cent of the crop lay at the surface exposed to the sun, green, and eaten by insects, chickens, and about 50 per cent that were beneath the surface were free from scale, of good size, and a credit to any farmer. Notwithstanding there was no rain since April, the soil, four inches below the surface was moist and cool.

Potato vines yield two clusters of tubers, one at the base of the vine and another about three inches above the base. Had this farmer planted his seed in a furrow eight inches deep and as the vines grew, filled the soil around it so that at maturity the tubers would be six inches beneath the surface, he would have had 100 sacks of first class potatoes to the acre, instead of 50 sacks of inferior ones. This applies to other crops and all resolves itself to the what to plant, when to plant, how to plant, how and when to sell. When in doubt ask Mr. Starrett all those questions don't hesitate for he knows and it is his pleasure to tell.

### A Word About Corn.

Your Kula district can grow as good corn as anywhere in the States. The growers have not been encouraged because while they are now growing a good crop of corn suitable to feed to their stock, it is too mixed to suit the critical market that must have only first-class corn.

If these farmers will plant a pure



INSPECTING BANANAS, SUPERINTENDENT STARRETT ON RIGHT



BANANAS READY FOR INSPECTION.



CORN GROWING IN KULA DISTRICT.

yellow dent variety that will mature in twelve weeks they will suffer less from possible drought. Your islands are fortunate to be free from the corn worm, so destructive in the States.

On the Kona coast we found celery, cabbage, lettuce, turnips, grapes and tobacco growing to perfection as if in their native element. Encourage these growers by helping them to market their products. Your tourists and your soldiers will consume enormous quantities, if obtainable.

Nowhere on the coast, even the famous Ventura country can no grow beans in greater luxuriance than we have seen on Maui. But the same fault prevails. They have not the variety that the market demands and complain that they cannot sell them at a profit. It will require time, but this will all be straightened out, as it now is in Southern California, by planting Limas, pink and white beans, that the market demands.

I have great praise for your Portuguese farmer; he is intelligent and persevering. I have observed your farmers, particularly the Japanese and Chinese, were ages behind with implements. It is doubtful if they

know what up-to-date tools should be. In this connection may I be bold enough to suggest that many of your schools where it is practical, be supplied with a set of up-to-date tools, which should include a completely equipped one-horse cultivator. This set would cost less than \$20 and be of great value toward practical education.

### Would Teach Gardening.

This suggestion came to me because we found many teachers deeply interested in this work, and at their own expense and extra labor were demonstrating to their pupils by object lessons in farming. Then, too, they are in touch with every family in their respective districts and can spread this knowledge more rapidly than by any other means. Let them ask Mr. Starrett to visit their district to note their soil and climate, to tell them what and when to plant. Of course with small family gardens the time to plant is of little importance in this climate but for commercial crops there is a certain time to plant to get the best results and highest prices. No other time will do. Some have al-

\$100,000 in Onions Will Be Shipped Next Spring

ready discovered this greatly to their financial loss.

Many plantations, too, have shown great interest in the work and a willingness to cooperate. It would be a good means for education if the plantations would have under their supervision one large garden to grow all the vegetables needed on the plantation. No large ranch in California is complete without such a garden, even many of the large restaurants have their own gardens.

Yes, it is an interesting work and requires time and co-operation, with accent on the co-operation. You can accomplish nothing without it. With the exception of the melon and Mediterranean fly, your insect bugaboo has been greatly exaggerated. It is little if any worse than elsewhere. Paris green mixed at the rate of one tablespoonful to five gallons of cold water intelligently applied will reduce the damage of the beetle and cutworm to insignificance. Of course this must not be applied to vegetables about ready for consumption. Nicotiana will eradicate the aphid.

Uncle Sam's Opportunity. Yes, I have observed from my point of view many opportunities, but the one that appealed most to me is the opportunity Uncle Sam has to make the Schofield reservation the grandest demonstration farm in all his great domain. With that soil the climate and plenty of water, that place could produce everything U. S. soldiers could use from pork to government mules, from beer broth to strawberry shortcake with real cream.

The most wonderful things I have seen was first your volcano. I was fortunate to see Madame Pele at a time of her greatest rage. Next your ferns, so enormous in size and many varieties. The Easterner can not imagine your building cabins with logs of ferns. Third and no less wonderful was to see at Lahaina your aviation drive and coral 10,000 feet.

I very much regret that my time is too limited to visit Kaula, but I will come again and when I do I hope to find your farmers growing potatoes, onions, cabbage, celery, corn, and beans in such quantities that it will be unnecessary to import any of these items. Your growers on semi-arid land should study and practice dry farming. These lands will grow millet, kamr corn and milo maize sufficient to feed all your hens. You have just begun on these lines.

### TREASURY HEAD

MAY BE INVESTIGATED

Congress Asked to Make Inquiry After Publication of Letter

WASHINGTON, July 2.—A Congressional investigation of Secretary Franklin MacVeagh's administration in the Treasury Department, is impending as one of the results of a quarrel of long standing between the Secretary and one of his assistant secretaries, A. Platt Andrews, which culminated today in Andrews' resignation. Representative James Cox of Ohio introduced a resolution proposing a complete investigation of Mr. MacVeagh's administration.

The following statement came from the White House:

"Mr. Andrews' resignation as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury was requested, submitted, and accepted, in view of his failure to obey orders given him by the Secretary."

When told of the statement that his resignation had been requested, Andrews said:

"That is technically true, but the statements in my letter of resignation show the reasons which led to that condition."

Senators Crane, Lodge, and Smoot, it is understood, have had frequent conferences with the President recently in a vain endeavor to bridge the difficulty between Secretary MacVeagh and his assistant.

A successor to Andrews has not yet been decided upon. George E. Roberts, Director of the Mint, is being prominently mentioned.

Dr. Andrews' resignation becomes effective at once. He will leave Washington tonight for his home at Gloucester, Mass., to spend the summer. He has many business propositions under consideration, but has not decided which he will accept.

Samuel Elliot of Boston, Mass., his private secretary, tendered his resignation simultaneously.

In his letter to the President, dated July 2, Andrews charges that men in the Treasury Department "have been hampered and discouraged at every turn by Secretary MacVeagh's idiosyncrasies and his incapacity for decision." The letter also contains a scathing arraignment of Secretary MacVeagh's administration of the government's financial affairs, and has created a profound sensation in official circles.

"Papa, what is a safety match?" Mr. Henpeck (looking carefully to see if his wife is within hearing—A safety match, my son, is an armless, bald-headed man marries an armless woman.

"Do you know what an oath is?" asked a Virginia judge of an old darky, who wanted his vote sworn in at an election. "Yes, sah. When a man swears to a lie, he's got ter stick to it."

AUGUST 1st

Opening Day of Our Annual

August Clearance Sale

Watch This Space for Big Special Announcement

J. Hopp & Co., Ltd.